



remembrance ni

The Runnymede Memorial



On VE Day 2020 the iconic RAF Red Arrows undertake a flypast over the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey. The memorial commemorates more than 20,000 airmen and women who were lost in the Second World War during operations from bases in the United Kingdom and North and Western Europe and who have no known grave.



The Royal Air Force saw some of the earliest action of the Second World War when on 4 September 1939, the day after war was declared, Blenheim and Wellington bombers attacked German shipping near Brunsbüttel and Wilhelmshaven. In those raids seven aircrafts were lost and 25 airmen killed, the first casualties in what would become a worldwide struggle to gain mastery in the air upon which victory depended.

- The memorial commemorates the men and women of the air forces of the Commonwealth who were lost in air and other operations over western Europe during the Second World War
- Designed by Sir Edward Maufe, it is made of Portland stone and consists of a shrine embraced by a cloister

- The shrine is adorned with three stone figures by Vernon Hill representing Justice, Victory and Courage
- The engraved glass and painted ceilings were designed by John Hutton and the poem engraved on the gallery window was written by Paul H Scott
- The memorial was unveiled on 17 October 1953 by Queen Elizabeth II



The memorial was designed by Sir Edward Maufe, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Principal Architect for the United Kingdom after the Second World War. His aim was to create an atmosphere of quiet and intimacy.

Through the entrance is a courtyard containing a Stone of Remembrance, and opposite, a shrine – the design of which is similar to the control towers crews would have seen when returning to base. The shrine is adorned with three stone



figures by Vernon Hill representing Justice, Victory and Courage.

The shrine is embraced by a cloister in which the names of the dead are recorded. The names of the missing, grouped according to the year of death, are inscribed on the stone panels, giving the impression of partly opened stone books. The coats of arms of the Commonwealth countries are represented on the cloister ceilings. The cloisters have curved wings terminating in two lookouts.

Engraved on the great north window of the shrine are words from the 139th Psalm, sometimes called the Airman's Psalm.

Above the angels flanking the text are engraved vapour trails taken from photographs of the sky over England during the Battle of Britain. The design is by John Hutton, also

responsible for the painted ceilings of the shrine and lookouts which depict the four winds, the planets and the phases of the moon scattered with stars.

From the shrine, two staircases lead to a gallery. There is a poem engraved on a window written soon after the memorial was completed by a student, Paul H Scott. From the gallery, a further staircase leads to the roof of the tower which is surmounted by an Astral Crown of blue and gold.

North Irish Horse Corporal from Moy died serving with Royal Flying Corps



Roland Bradley was one of four brothers who served in WW1. Three of them were killed and the fourth was injured. They are commemorated on Moy War Memorial.

Roland Irvine Bradley was born on 15 May 1896 at Burnfoot, County Donegal, son of RIC constable William James Bradley and his wife Jane Ethel Bradley (nee Elkin), one of the younger children of a large family. By 1911 he was living at Corr, Charlemont, County Armagh, his father by then having retired.

Bradley enlisted in the North Irish Horse on 20 February 1914 (No.907). He embarked for France with A Squadron on 17 August 1914, seeing action on the Retreat from Mons and the Advance to the Aisne.

During 1916 or early 1917 he was attached to No.20 Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps, with the rank of lance corporal.

On 20 May 1917 he was flying as an observer in an FE2d two-seater biplane on an offensive patrol on the Ypres front. The aircraft was attacked by a number of enemy fighters.

With its radiator shot-up, the pilot was forced to land in a cornfield behind British lines. Unfortunately it overturned on landing, fatally crushing Lance Corporal Bradley. An account of the action appeared in the *Irish Times* of 9 June 1917:

“Intimation has been received by Mr. William Bradley, Corr, Dunavalley, Charlemont, Moy, of the gallantry of his younger son, Corporal Rowley Bradley, North Irish Horse, attached to a Royal Flying Corps Squadron, who met his death on May 20th while engaged fighting four enemy aeroplanes. The deceased soldier was acting as aerial gunner, and the story of his gallant deed is told in the following letter received by his bereaved parents from Lieutenant Hugh B. Howe, R.F.C., who accompanied him on the occasion as flying

officer: – "We were attacked by three Hun machines over the lines. We brought down one of them, and then were attacked by a fourth from the rear. We had our machine and engine damaged, compelling us to leave the fight. Not being able to reach an aerodrome in our crippled condition we had to land in a soft cornfield, but the machine not being under full control crashed, and turned over on landing, your son being smashed under the wreckage. Everything humanely possible was done to extricate him, but he had passed away. The accident took place on Sunday, 20th May, at 10.10 a.m. Your son was much honoured and respected in this squadron, for he was a brave fighter and observer, and his work was highly appreciated by everyone who knew him." The deceased soldier, whose father is an ex-member of the R.I.C., had originally joined the North Irish Horse, and was one of Sir John French's bodyguard when the latter was Commander-in-Chief in France, but, wishing to take part in more active scenes had been accepted in the Royal Flying Corps.

Roland Bradley's death wasn't the only loss faced by his family during the war.

One brother, Leading Stoker Frederick Elkin Bradley, drowned on 3 November 1914 when his submarine, D.5, struck a mine off Great Yarmouth.

Another brother, Francis Henry Bradley, was killed in action on 9 April 1917 at Arras while serving in the 15th Battalion, Canadian Infantry.

A third brother, Albert James Bradley, received a severe shrapnel wound to his right hand at Hooze on 7 May 1915

while serving with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.”

Roland's grave is at Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery, Nord, France. He and his brothers are commemorated on Moy WM

On this Day – May 20

1940

Forward units of 2. Panzer Division reach the French coast at Noyelles-sur-Mer cutting the British Army off.

Gen. Gamelin is replaced with Gen. Weygand. Lord Gort realises that evacuation from France is the only practical solution left to save the British Army.

As part of preparations for establishing the Auschwitz concentration camp the SS brought 30 German criminal prisoners from KL Sachsenhausen. They were to become the first 'functionaries' in the new camp. The first transport of deported Poles arrived 25 days later.

1941

14,000 German paratroopers invade Crete. It's history's first major airborne operation. Although a success, casualties are so heavy that Hitler refuses to order any more large drops; Germany's elite Fallschirmjäger will fight the rest of the war as infantry.

1944

38 Irish Brigade. John Horsfall, Commanding 2 LIR writing home from Cassino to Mary Mayo, the widow of Sgt Edward Mayo MM, on 20th May 1944: "You must have heard by now of your husband and all that he did for us and I should like to offer you our very deepest sympathy on behalf of the whole Regiment..."

Roll of Honour – May 20

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1916

+HAUGHNEY, James

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 8th Btn. Private. 22406. Died 20/05/1916. Age 26. Son of Edward and Mary Ann Haughney, of 46, Donnybrook St., Belfast. Loos Memorial, France

+JOHNSTON, G

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 5th Btn. attd. 8th Btn. Private. 27625. Died 20/05/1916. Age 18. Son of George Johnston, of 23, Abercorn St. North, Belfast. Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, France

+McCROSSAN, Bernard

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 7th Btn. A Coy. Private. 23574. Died 20/05/1916. Age 30. Son of Patrick and Annie McCrossan. Born at Dragish, Newtownstewart, Co. Tyrone. Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, France

+McHUGH, M

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 7th Btn. Private. 25289. Died 20/05/1916. Age 33. Son of the late Mickie McHugh, of 12, Sugarhouse Lane, Londonderry. Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, France

1917

HMS PAXTON

HMS Paxton was a First World War Royal Navy Q-Ship torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine U-46 on 20/05/1917 in North Atlantic about 100 miles west of Fastnet Rock, Ireland. The ship was originally ordered as *Lady Patricia* for the British and Irish Steam Packet Company but taken over on completion by the British Government as HMAV Lady Patricia.

The ship was damaged by gunfire from the German submarine U-57 on 30/03/1917 in St George's Channel and six crew killed. Shortly afterwards work started on converting her to an anti-submarine Q-ship, *Q25*, which was completed on 30/04/1917. The ship was commissioned as HMS Paxton the following day and sunk less than three weeks later.

+FRAME, James Russell Granger Allen

RN. Stoker. 884616. HMS Paxton. Died 20/05/1917. Son of James and Agnes Frame, Agnes St., Belfast

+ROBINSON, Samuel

RNR. Sub-Lieutenant. HMS Paxton. Died 20/05/1917. Age 26. . Son of Samuel Robinson, Ballycultra, Holywood. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 27. Holywood WM. High Street, Holywood PCI-RH. IMR

1917

+BRADLEY, Rowland Irvine

Royal Flying Corps. North Irish Horse. Lance Corporal. 907. Died 20/05/1917. Lance Corporal Bradley embarked for France on 17/08/1914. He saw action on the Retreat from Mons and Advance to the Aisne.

He was one of Sir John French's bodyguard but wished to take part in more active scenes. He was accepted in the Royal Flying Corps as a gunner. During 1916 or early 1917 he was attached to No.20 Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps, with the rank of lance corporal. On 20 May 1917 he was flying as an observer in an FE2d two-seater biplane on an offensive patrol on the Ypres front. The aircraft was attacked by a number of enemy fighters. With its radiator shot-up, the pilot was forced to land in a cornfield behind British lines. Unfortunately it overturned on landing, fatally crushing Lance Corporal Bradley. An account of the action appeared in the Irish Times of 09/06/1917. He was the son of William and Jane Bradley, of Charlemont near the Moy, Tyrone. Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery, Hazebrouck, Nord, France. Moy WM (see article above)

+CARLIN, Hugh

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 18523.
Died 20/05/1917. Age 29. Son of the late Hugh and Mary Carlin, of Commons, Coleraine. Arras Memorial, France

+FLYNN, Thomas

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Btn. Private. 31180.
Died 20/05/1915. Age 20. Son of Michael and Mary Jane Flynn, of Hill St., Gilford, Co. Down. Arras Memorial, France

+McBRIDE, Samuel

Royal Irish Rifles, 13th Btn. Rifleman. 18/301. Died of wounds in No 53 Casualty Clearing Station on 20/05/1917. Aged 43. Born 20/05/1874. Enlisted in Banbridge early 1915 after the outbreak of war, training in Clondeboy Camp. Left for France with the 36th Ulster Division in October 1915. Survived the "Somme" uninjured, badly wounded December 1916. After hospital he returned home to recover. Returned to the Western Front 05/05/1917. Severely wounded on the 19th May and died of wounds the following day. On the 19th the 13th were in the trenches at Kemmel at 06.30 till 07.30 the Germans were shelling the area, a shell hit the moat killing 2 and wounding 9. The wounded were taken to No 53 Casualty Clearing Station. Two brothers in law also lost - Rifleman William James Orr 11/05/1915 and Rifleman George Hoey 23/10/1916. Samuel was the eldest son of James and Sarah Jane McBride (nee Ryans), 57 Seapatrick Village, Banbridge. A family of 6. Husband to Rebecca (nee McBride) McBride, Seapatrick, Banbridge, then Kenlis Court Banbridge. Father of 4 children. Bailleul

Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France. Banbridge WM. Seapatricks Parish Church WM

+McGUCKIN, Paul

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). 141st Coy. Private. 66782. Died 20/05/1917. Age 24. He was born on 01/08/1893 in Kinturk, Ardboe. He was one of seven children, six surviving. He was a fisherman, like his brother and father. Paul McGuckin enlisted with the Royal Irish Fusiliers in Armagh (No 24755). He later transferred to the Machine Gun Corps. Son of Paul and Eliza McGuckin, of Lower Mullins, Ballinderry Bridge, Moneymore, Co. Tyrone. Bedford House Cemetery, Belgium. Coagh WM

1921

+BELL, Robert John

North Irish Horse. Private. 1796. Died 20/05/1921. Born on 28/05/1891 at 87 Craigmole Street, Belfast, the third of eight children of bread server Robert John Bell and his wife Margaret Ann (née Brown). By the time of the 1911 Census he was living at 50 McClure Street, Belfast, with his parents and his six surviving siblings. Enlisted in the North Irish Horse on 06/11/1915. He trained at the regiment's Antrim reserve camp, but fell-ill during 1916, having contracted pulmonary tuberculosis. On 29/09/1916 he was discharged, being 'no longer physically fit for war service' (paragraph 392 (xvi), King's Regulations). He was later granted a pension due to the tuberculosis, which was attributed to his military service. In November 1919 his level of disability was assessed at 70 per cent. Following his discharge Robert Bell returned to his home at 50 McClure Street. His

condition worsened, and he died there. At the time, Robert Bell was not officially identified as a casualty of the war, although he appears to meet the criteria. A submission was made to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission by the 'In From The Cold' Project proposing that he be included on its roll of honour. Blaris Old Burying Ground, Lisburn

1940

+McCLELLAND, Allan

Irish Guards. 1st Btn. Guardsman. 2718831. Died 20/05/1940. Aged 20. Son of Andrew McClelland and Annie McClelland of Belfast. Allied Plot, Harstad Cemetery, Norway

1944

+CROZIER, Desmond Robert

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Fusilier. 6980701. Died 20/05/1944. Aged 33. Son of John George and Jessie Florence Crozier, of Newtownbutler, Co. Fermanagh. Anzio Beach Head War Cemetery, Italy.

Veterans

ALLEN, John

RNAS. Chief Petty Officer. F2742. Armoured Car Division. Enlisted 12/12/1914 for hostilities. In Russia 01/10/1916 - 07/01/1918. Machine Gun Corps from 18/01/1918. Born

Belfast 20/05/1876. Motor repairer pre-war. ADM
188/565/2742

BELL, Robert John

North Irish Horse. Born on 28/05/1891 at 87 Craigmore Street, Belfast, the third of eight children of bread server Robert John Bell and his wife Margaret Ann (née Brown). By the time of the 1911 Census he was living at 50 McClure Street, Belfast, with his parents and his six surviving siblings.

R J Bell enlisted in the North Irish Horse on 06/11/1915 (No.1796). He trained at the regiment's Antrim reserve camp, but fell-ill during 1916, having contracted pulmonary tuberculosis. On 29/09/1916 he was discharged, being 'no longer physically fit for war service' (paragraph 392 (xvi), King's Regulations).

R J Bell was later granted a pension due to the tuberculosis, which was attributed to his military service. In November 1919 his level of disability was assessed at 70 per cent. Following his discharge Bell returned to his home at 50 McClure Street. His condition worsened, and he died there on 20/05/1921. He is commemorated on a family headstone in Blaris Old Burial Ground Lisburn.

BELL, Robert Kelso

RN. Stoker I. K26115. Enrolled 20/05/1915 for hostilities. President II and V, Jupiter and Bacchante. Demobbed 29/13/1919. Born Belfast 14/06/1891. ADM 188/919/26115

FLYNN, William

RN. Stoker I. SS114113. Enrolled 21/05/1913 for 5 and 7 years. Implacable, Duncan, Pembroke II and Calypso. Demobbed 18/03/1919. Joined RFR 19/03/1919. Born Belfast 20/05/1895. ADM 188/1120/114113

KEENAN, Patrick

RN. Stoker I. 303988. Enrolled 20/05/1903 for 12 years. Served to 24/07/1909. Joined RFR 25/07/1909. Served from 30/10/1914 in Vivid II, Indus, Patricia and Impregnable. Demobbed 12/02/1919. Born Belfast 04/03/1882. ADM 188/494/303988

MOORE, Alexander

RN. AB. SS5757. Enrolled 28/04/1915 for 5 and 7 years. War service in Pembroke I and Havelock (26/05/1915 - 15/05/1919). Demobbed 28/05/1920. Joined RFR 29/05/1920. Born Lurgan 20/05/1896. Belfast. Waringstown - PCI RH. ADM 188/1099/5757

MOORE, William

RN. AB. J37522. Enrolled 20/05/1915 for hostilities. In Pembroke I and Havelock (26/05/1915 - 19/02/1919, demobbed). Born Belfast 08/12/1895. ADM 188/722/37522

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PORTER, Thomas Alexander

RN. Petty Officer. J12737. Boy service from 20/05/1911. Enrolled 23/07/1913 for 12 years. War service in New Zealand, Vivid I, Defiance, Victory II, Acteon and Concord.

Promoted officer 21/12/1925. Born Londonderry 23/07/1895. Lower Bennett Street, Londonderry. St Columb's Masonic Lodge, Londonderry. First Derry - PCI RH. ADM 188/672/12737

REID, Charles William

RN. MCB. Born 20/05/1922. Son of Charles Reid, South Parade, Belfast. Civil Service Ni. South Parade, Belfast

Every day is a Remembrance Day

We will remember them

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Information about individuals who served - please forward to remembrance ni at

houstonmckelvey@mac.com

remembrance ni

The **remembrance ni** programme is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD who served as Chaplain to 102 and 105 Regiments Royal Artillery (TA), as Hon. Chaplain to RNR and as Chaplain to the RBL NI area and the Burma Star Association NI. Dr McKelvey is a Past President of Queen's University Services Club. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com

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